

Dhoties	—Rs. 16.03 to 21.98 per piece
Sarees	—Rs. 20.10 to 28.51 per piece
Long cloth	—Rs. 15.50 to 31.79 per mtr.

The subsidy provided by the Government for the production of the above items by NTC is as follows:-

Dhoties and Sarees	: Rs. 1.50 per sq. mtr.
Long Cloth	: Rs. 2.00 per sq. mtr.

Besides, the above textile items, the organised mill sector including NTC produce textile items which are available for mass consumption. The details of these items and the retail prices thereof are as follows:-

(Retail prices (Current))

	Sorts	Rs./Mtr.
(i) Cotton cloth:	Longcloth	20.85
	Poplin/shirting	29.50
	Coating/drill	39.55
	Sarees	40.00
	Dhoty	29.00
(ii) Blended cloth	Poplin/shirting	31.60
	Dress material	37.00
	Saree	41.00
(iii) Synthetic cloth;	Shirting, Poplin	
	Dress material	50.15
	Saree	40.00

Government does not provide any subsidy for the production of the above textiles by organised mill sector.

#### Ban of Timber and Plywood Industry

3151. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in the matter of banning of timber and plywood industries through out the country in general and the NE region in particular has the potential of escalation in the domestic prices of wood and articles of wood;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any survey of pricing pattern of various wood products in local and international market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court in its Order dated 12.12.1996 passed in the write petition No. 202(1995) and 171 (1996) had directed that each State Government should constitute Expert Committee to assess the number of saw mills,

veneer mills and plywood mills operating within the state, their capacity and source of timber within two months and file a report. It has also directed the State Governments to constitute an Expert Committee to assess the sustainable capacity of forests of the State, qua saw mills and timber based industry.

#### External Aid

3152. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the gross external aid received in 1994-95, 1995-96 together with the projection for the current financial year;

(b) the gross revenue receipts for the above period;

(c) the figures for the repayment of principal debt servicing for the same period and the percentage does it constitute of revenue receipts;

(d) the international borrowings and debt liabilities during each of the last three years and projections for 1997-98 together with the repayments; and

(e) the gross amount of repayment of internal and external debt in 1994-95 and 1995-96 and its percentage of the revenue receipts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) The information is given in the table below:

(Rs. Crore)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (R.E.)
(a) Gross external aid on Government account	9530	8710	10645
Cash and commodity grants	916	1064	1087
Loans	8614	7646	9558
(b) Gross revenue receipts	155226	179858	211883
(c) and (e) Repayment of Principal (i + ii)	63029	72329	66544
(i) Internal debt and other liabilities (excluding discharge of 91 days treasury bills, Reserve funds and deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions)	57560	65888	59575
(ii) Repayment of external debt	5469	6441	6969
(iii) Percentage of (c) and (e) to (b)*	40.6	40.2	31.4

(d) The debt outstanding against external Loan on Government account for the last three years and estimated for 1997-98 are as follows:

	(Rs. Crore)
As on 31.3.95	142525
As on 31.3.96	148595
As on 31.3.97 (Est.)	151184
As on 31.3.98 (Est.)	153619

The estimated (BE) repayments during 1997-98 is Rs. 7464 crores.

\*The principal repayment of internal and external debt is met out of fresh borrowings, thus rolling over the debt. It is not met out of current revenue receipts.

#### **Lending Rate of RBI**

3153. SHRI VIJAY PATEL:  
SHRI RATI LAL KALIDAS VERMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has been announcing lending rate for institutions like Housing and Urban Development Corporation etc. from time to time; and

(b) if so, the details of lending rates announced for such institutions during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that with effect from September 12, 1995, it was decided to include housing finance agencies in the category of intermediary agencies and banks were advised to charge a fixed rate of interest at 1.5 percentage points below their respective Prime Lending Rates for credit limits in the category of advances over Rs. 2 lakhs on Housing Finance granted to intermediary agencies for on lending to ultimate beneficiaries. As far as HUDCO is concerned, its lending rate is decided by its Board of Directors. However, the lending rate of EWS/LIG Housing Schemes and Action Plan Scheme is decided by an Empowered Committee under the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment.

#### **NRI Accounts in Cooperative Banks**

3154. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for permitting the cooperative banks in Kerala to deal with the foreign exchange remittance of the Non-resident Indians is pending with the Union Government for clearance; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and, to the extent

available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **External Aided Projects**

3155. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides 25% amount of the Budgetary resource for the Externally Aided Projects as an advance in the beginning of the financial year to be adjusted against the expenditure of implementing the Externally Aided Projects without causing time and cost over-run;

(b) if so, whether the Government has released the amount of advance to the State Government of Rajasthan for such projects;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Advance Additional Central Assistance (ACA) released to Government of Rajasthan since 1994-95 are:

	(Rs. Crores)
1994-95	32.77
1995-96	46.60

During 1996-97, no Advance ACA was released to the State on account of Budgetary constraints.

#### **Transfers Guidelines to Nationalised Banks**

3156. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:  
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJ  
BHAI CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directive have been issued by Government to Nationalised Banks for transfer of officers of various cadres after every three years etc. from a Branch/Office/Region to another Branch/Office/Region/Zone;

(b) whether any exemption have been given from such transfers to activities/office-bearers/leaders of officers association etc. recognised by the management etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) if not the steps taken by Government for such violations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The transfer of banks' staff is a management function of the bank. As such transfer/exemption from transfer is done by banks based on administrative exigencies of each bank.